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Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kattimuthu): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many acres of poramboke lands are available for cultivation in Vriddhachalam taluk; and

(b) out of the above, how many acres of land are being cultivated by Harijans?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) 1,147·74 acres.

" (b) 841·24 acres."

Formation of new handloom co-operative societies in 1946–47 and 1952–53.

* 696 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many new handloom co-operative societies were formed in the State during the years 1946–47 and 1952–53?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of new handloom co-operative societies formed in 1946–47 and 1952–53 were 156 and 21 respectively."

Payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to textile workers.

* 697 Q.—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, issued any circular to the managers of all the textile mills in the State recommending the payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to the workers before 5th November 1953, as an advance in the bonus account; and

(b) if so, how many mills accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour and how many did not?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Thirty out of eighty-five mills to whom the appeal was sent have paid the advance and the remaining 55 mills did not."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, the remaining mills which did not pay to the workers are in a position to pay the moneys to the workers according to the recommendation of the Labour Commissioner. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister for Labour what the opinion of the Government is regarding their non-payment and their unsympathetic attitude towards the workers? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have no information about their capacity to pay or not. But if 55 mills had not complied with the request of the Commissioner of Labour, I have myself no doubt that several of them are

unsympathetic to the workers. I do not know whether they could be compelled to pay. I shall discuss this matter further with the Commissioner of Labour.''

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—'' Under what circumstances was this recommendation for payment of advance bonus made, Sir? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' This was made on the eve of Deepavali.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' Sir, if the 55 mills did not act according to the directions of the Government, have they stated any reasons for non-compliance? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, there was no direction as such. The Commissioner of Labour requested all these mills to pay, but these people did not pay.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Sir, whether the recommendations were obligatory or not, when the Government found their recommendation or advice was not heeded by these managements, why did not they take steps to enquire why it was not complied with? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, the Government can take steps in the matter only when they could do so under the Industrial Law.''

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—'' தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு போனஸ் கொடுப்பதில் அடிக்கடி தகராறுகள் ஏற்படுவதனுல் அமைதிக்கு பாதகம் ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் தங்களுடைய நிர்வாகத்தில் நடத்தும் ஸ்தாபனங்களில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு போனஸ் கொடுக்கும் முறையை மில் முதலாளிகள் கையாள்வதற்கு ஒரு சட்டம் இயற்ற சர்க்கார் உத்தேசிப் பார்களா ? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, I would like to have notice for that.''

8–40 a.m. SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' The Hon. Minister said that Government could take steps only under the Industrial Law. If that were so, I wish to know why the Government went out of the way and made a recommendation and stultified themselves on account of the non-observance of that law? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' No, Sir. The Government do not mind going out of the way if they could thereby help the workers. As a result of the recommendation of the Labour Commissioner, at least 30 mills came forward to help the workers and made an advance payment of bonus on the eve of Deepavali.''

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—'' On a point of order, Sir. The Government are not expected to show any sympathy to one side or another but to hold the scales evenly and as such I do not understand why the Minister was stating that he would go out of the way.''

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not see any point of order in this. The reference is only to a recommendation. What I said was that the Government would not mind going out of the way in making certain recommendations. There is nothing wrong in making a recommendation."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Recommendations of Government, I believe, are mandatory. The implication at least is that the Government are convinced that the recommendation, would be generally complied with. Is that so? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am afraid if the hon. Member's dictum is accepted, the Commissioner of Labour may not be able to do much service that he is able to do now by way of conciliation, recommendation, etc."

Subdivision of poramboke lands cultivated by Harijans in Naraiyur and Nager villages in Vriddhachalam taluk.

* 698 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state why the poramboke lands in Naraiyur and Nager villages in Vriddhachalam taluk now cultivated by the poor Harijans have been subdivided?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No poramboke lands in Naraiyur and Nager villages in Vriddhachalam taluk are now cultivated by Harijans and no subdivisions were also effected."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Has any petition been received from the Harijans requesting permission for cultivation of these lands? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am not aware of any petition that has been received. But there are other assessed waste lands which have been given to these Harijans and they are cultivating them as a matter of fact."

Emblem of the British Crown on the buttons supplied with uniforms to the employees of the Government hospitals in the City of Madras.

* 699 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the buttons supplied to the Government hospital employees in Madras City along with uniforms even after Independence bear the emblem of the British Crown?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I have seen this myself in the Ophthalmic Hospital. When the nursing orderlies were supplied uniforms, I saw that the buttons on the uniforms bore this Crown emblem. Will the Government change it with a new emblem? "